

VolunteerUTTLESFORD

Annual Review 2020-2021



CHAIRS REPORT

Chair – Robin Lee

This year, Volunteer Uttlesford played a pivotal role in supporting our rural population throughout a pandemic.

Working with Uttlesford District Council and CVSU, we set up the Uttlesford Community Response Hub, managing requests for help and support.

We supplied volunteers to the Covid Vaccination programme, with volunteers registered to help at the local Lord Butler vaccination centre and several hundred referred on to volunteer at the mass vaccination sites.



With staff working from home, we needed to update our IT systems – a task that was successfully managed by one of our new trustees volunteering their own time.

When lockdown restrictions allowed, we continued with our core activities, one of which was The Employee Volunteering Initiative, benefitting the community with a number of open space projects.

A group for people caring for those with Dementia was started, a crucial lifeline for those taking part.

Due to restrictions, our staff and loyal team of volunteers met occasionally for coffee and cake on The Common in Saffron Walden, boosting lockdown morale and wellbeing.

Huge thanks must go to our primary funders who have continued to show faith in our work, notably, UDC, ECC, Essex Community Foundation, Big Lottery Fund, Postcode Lottery, Independent Age and Charities Age Foundation.

Finally, and most importantly, I must end with a big thank you to the staff and trustees. If it were not for their hard work and commitment, we would never have achieved everything that we have in this challenging year.



CHIEF OFFICER

Lizzie Petrie

This year the traditional idea of volunteering has had to be adapted to successfully encompass everything that has been thrown our way!

Our offices at UDC stand empty, the team have developed great working relationships from a distance, and we have kept in touch with our office volunteers usually by meeting for coffee and cake on the Common in Saffron Walden.

Since our last report, unbelievably, we are still working from our various houses, two of the team are in the process of moving home and one of the team got married!

Working in partnership with CVSU and UDC the Uttlesford Community Response Hub was set up and within two days of the initial lockdown, help was there for those needing to shield. We have all benefited from this collaboration, which continues to grow and develop to support people throughout Uttlesford.

Ploughing on from lockdown to lockdown we are proud to have achieved so much; the majority of our work has been reactive, collecting and delivering prescriptions, shopping, befriending, sourcing, and placing volunteers each week at vaccination centres.

Employee Volunteering - projects have begun once more, for Companies this means an opportunity for them to actually meet in person and undertake 'live' team building, mostly whilst gardening for local organisations – definitely a win, win situation.



Team of workers from Stansted Airport tidying the garden at a local Sheltered Housing complex.



DEMENTIA CARERS GROUP

Due to lockdown restrictions, the Dementia Café was no longer able to continue. Jennifer the Dementia Café Co-ordinator started a group for Carers, initially staying in touch via telephone, progressing to Zoom and when restrictions allowed meeting outside for coffee, progressing to lunch! This group has proved to be an invaluable lifeline to those attending.



Since the start of the project there have been 426 attendees.

TIMEBANK



Members supported others through telephone or Zoom befriending and small outdoor projects took place. A successful Zoom group was set up, Tea@3 led by Tessa, others from Essex Timebanks were invited, these were tremendously successful and great fun sessions. Everything from a spa facial (a pack of lovely treats sent out to each participant) to laughter yoga.

UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY RESPONSE HUB

In partnership with UDC and CVSU the community hub sprung into action. Two days after lockdown was announced, an appeal was put out for volunteers. The team worked almost double their usual hours to ensure that volunteers swiftly reached those who needed help and support, initially by collecting and delivering prescriptions, shopping and offering telephone befriending.

GENERAL VOLUNTEERING

Many general volunteering roles were put on hold but during the year we also achieved:

846

Individuals placed into volunteering including Time Bank exchanges

371

Volunteering involving organisations are registered on our databases

286

Organisations and individuals were registered as Time Bank members

3,000

Time Bank hours were exchanged



COVID-19 RESPONSE HUB STATISTICS SINCE APRIL 2020

Volunteers

563 registered

Beneficiaries

1,616

Category A beneficiaries

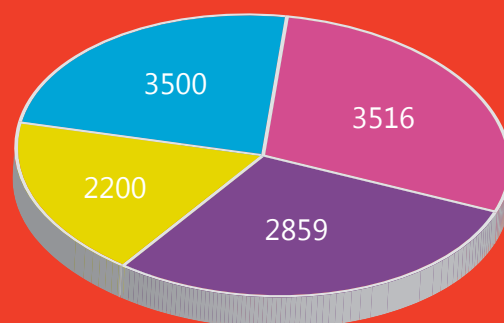
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COMMUNITY RESPONSE TASKS COMPLETED

10,799

Food Shopping	2,200
Prescriptions	3,516
Befriending Telephone Calls	3,500
Befriending Visits	60
Referred to Befriending Service (Other)	85
Other Help Requests	385
Christmas Hampers delivered	977
Food Hampers (slow cookers) delivered	76



Prescriptions Delivered
Bulk Prescriptions Delivered
Shopping Requests
Befriending Calls

ABOUT VOLUNTEER UTTLESFORD

Volunteer Uttlesford was established in 1995 to support the community of Uttlesford, which is the largest geographical district in Essex and the most rural.

We aim to make
volunteering a
part of everyday
life in Uttlesford



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